

CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION - PUBLIC SERVANTS' LEGAL COSTS

28. Mr P.D. OMODEI to the Premier:

I ask a supplementary question. In accordance with the Premier's circular dated 8 February this year, will public servants such as Gary Stokes and Paul Frewer have their legal fees reimbursed by Western Australian taxpayers?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

This is interesting. As I recall - I do not have the circular in front of me - there is the capacity for reimbursement of legal fees up to a certain amount. However, there are riders on that reimbursement, and it depends, as I understand it, on whether particular findings of impropriety are made or other actions may be taken subsequently.

Mr T. Buswell: What about for ministers?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I believe it would be the same but I am not 100 per cent sure.

Mr P.D. Omodei: When you come into the Parliament, will you explain to the Parliament what you're going to do - whether you're going to pay for their fees or not?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I will get an absolute definitive response. I am not certain about Mr Marlborough because he has already gone. My recollection is that there is the capacity for some assistance at a very low level, up to \$800 per day.

Mr T. Buswell: That won't even get Patti Chong a cup of tea!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No. There is also the capacity for reimbursement up to an amount that is deemed reasonable, but there is a rider on that and that depends upon the outcome -

Mr P.D. Omodei: Whether they acted reasonably and in good faith. You said, "All the ones that I've mentioned have acted reasonably and in good faith."

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Has the Leader of the Opposition not noticed what I have been doing recently?